

REMARKS

The objections to claims 31 and 62 have been corrected.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Henne, et al. It is respectfully asserted that this ground of rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. Henne, et al solely mentions a reaction of HCFC-235fa with an alcoholic potassium hydroxide. These claims have been amended to a process for reacting HFC-236fa or a combination of both HCFC-235fa and HFC-236fa. Henne, et al. neither teach nor suggest a process for reacting HFC-236fa or a combination of both HCFC-235fa and HFC-236fa. It is therefore submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome.

Claims 32, 35 and 38-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Mallikarjuna, et al. It is respectfully asserted that this ground of rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. Mallikarjuna, et al. teach a process solely employing HFC-236fa and a very specific crystalline, cubic chromium trifluoride in bulk, not supported, form. These claims have been amended to require that when the catalyst is a transition metal halide, that it is supported. Such is not suggested by Mallikarjuna, et al. It is therefore submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome.

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Henne, et al in view of Merkel, et al. It is respectfully asserted that this ground of rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. Henne, et al solely mentions a reaction of HCFC-235fa with an alcoholic potassium hydroxide. These claims have been amended to a process for reacting HFC-236fa or a combination of both HCFC-235fa and HFC-236fa. Henne, et al. neither teach nor suggest a process for reacting HFC-236fa or a combination of both HCFC-235fa and HFC-236fa. It is therefore submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome. As the examiner admits, Merkel, et al teaches the purification of a completely different product, namely, a fluoropropane. Merkel, et al has nothing whatsoever to do with the production of fluoropropene, much less 1,1,3,3,3-pentafluoropropene. Fluoropropanes and

fluoropropenes are not analogs, homologs or isomers and this are not suggestive of one another. There is no suggestion from the applied art that one should use fluoropropane purification techniques to purify 1,1,3,3,3-pentafluoropropene. Such a position is mere speculation and reconstructive of the art in light of applicant's disclosure. It is therefore submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 6, 8 and 11-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Henne, et al in view of Nappa, et al (U.S. 5,414,165) in view of Tung, et al (U.S. 5,902,912). Claim 5 has been canceled. It is respectfully asserted that this ground of rejection concerning claims 6, 8 and 11-31 has been overcome by the instant amendment. The arguments concerning Henne, et al are repeated from above. Henne, et al solely mentions a reaction of HCFC-235fa with an alcoholic potassium hydroxide. These claims have been amended to a process for reacting HFC-236fa or a combination of both HCFC-235fa and HFC-236fa. Henne, et al. neither teach nor suggest a process for reacting HFC-236fa or a combination of both HCFC-235fa and HFC-236fa. Nappa, et al and Tung, et al teach the preparation of fluoropropanes. However, in view of the amendment of claim 1, Henne, et al is no longer applicable and the previous fluorination does not suggest the dehydrofluorination or dehydrochlorination steps. The assumption that Nappa, et al teach the co-production of HCFC-235fa and HFC-236fa does not logically lead to the conclusion that both HCFC-235fa and HFC-236fa could or should be jointly reacted with a caustic to produce HFC-1225zc. It is therefore submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 33, 34, 36, 37 and 44-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Mallikarjuna, et al. in view of Nappa, et al and Tung, et al. It is respectfully asserted that this ground of rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. The arguments over Mallikarjuna, et al. are repeated from above. Mallikarjuna, et al. teach a process solely employing HFC-236fa and a very specific crystalline, cubic chromium trifluoride in bulk, not supported, form. These claims have been amended to require that when the catalyst is a transition metal halide, that it is supported. Such is not suggested by Mallikarjuna, et al.

Nappa, et al and Tung, et al teach the preparation of fluoropropanes. However, in view of the amendment of claim 32, Mallikarjuna, et al. is no long applicable and the previous fluorination does not suggest the dehydrofluorination or dehydrochlorination steps. Mallikarjuna, et al. does not teach a supported catalyst. With further regard to claim 33, cubic chromium trifluoride is no an analog, homolog or isomer of iron halides, nickel halides, or cobalt halides and hence one would not suggest the other. The fact that each contains a transition metal moiety is insufficient for one to suggest the other to those skilled in the art. Since there is no prima facie case of obviousness stated in the first instance, no showing of unexpected results is required. Furthermore, since Mallikarjuna, et al. has nothing whatsoever to do with HCFC-235fa. It is therefore submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome.

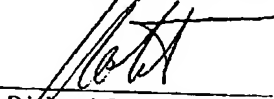
With regard to newly presented claim 69, Henne, et al shows a reaction employing an alcoholic solution of potassium hydroxide. This does not suggest reacting with a caustic in solid form. With regard to newly presented claim 70 Henne, et al's alcoholic solution does not suggest an aqueous caustic solution.

With regard to newly presented claim 71, Mallikarjuna, et al. does not suggest decomposing being conducted without a catalyst. With regard to newly presented claim 72, Mallikarjuna, et al. does not suggest decomposing being conducted with a catalyst comprising a supported transition metal halide. With regard to newly presented claim 73, Mallikarjuna, et al. does not suggest decomposing with a catalyst selected from the group consisting of supported transition metal oxides, bulk transition metal oxides, and combinations thereof. With regard to newly presented claim 74, Mallikarjuna, et al. does not suggest HCFC-235fa as a reactant. With regard to newly presented claim 75, Mallikarjuna, et al. does not suggest decomposing with a catalyst selected from the group consisting of iron halides, nickel halides, cobalt halides and combinations thereof.

The undersigned respectfully requests re-examination of this application and believes it is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested. If the examiner believes there

is any matter which prevents allowance of the present application, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted to arrange for an interview which may expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. 703-872-9306) on April 19, 2005.



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